

Remarks

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-10, 12-13, 15-17, 26, 28-29 and 31-47 are pending. Claims 18-25 are canceled and new Claims 35-47 are added in this Response. Claims 18-25 have been canceled merely to reduce the number of claims and thereby reduce the expense of adding the new claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement form 1449 filed April 9, 2001 accompanies this Response.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The computer product claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the Section 101 rejection.

Hines Is Disqualified As Prior Art Under Section 103(c)

All previously pending claims were rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over Hines (6392758) in view of other references. Hines can qualify as prior art only under Section 102(e). Hewlett-Packard Company owned Hines and the invention claimed in the present Application at the time of the claimed invention, as is evident from the assignment of Hines recorded March 6, 1998 at reel/frame 009022/0314 and the assignment of this Application recorded April 10, 2000 at reel/frame 010748/0546. Pursuant to Section 103(c), therefore, Hines does not preclude the patentability of any of the pending claims.

New Claims 35-47

New Claims 35 and 41 are identical to Claims 1 and 10, respectively, as they were presented in Amendment A filed May 14, 2004. Amendment A was filed in response to the first Office Action in which Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Hines. The amendments to Claims 1 and 10 distinguished Hines under Section 102. As noted above, Hines does not preclude patentability under Section 103. New Claims 35 and 41, therefore, are allowable along with their respective dependent claims.

New Claims 44-47 are a computer program product counterparts to method Claims 35-38.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the pending Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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